

EYE AND FACE PROTECTION

1723

(No. 69 May 2008)

When employees are working in locations where they are exposed to the possibility of eye or face injuries, or exposures, employees will be provided with, and required to wear, the appropriate protective equipment. CAL FIRE shall provide appropriate eye protection for those activities where eye protection is required. Examples of eye protection include: structural fire fighting goggles, wildland fire fighting goggles, face shields, and safety glasses. CAL FIRE has approved the voluntary use of ANSI Z87.1 Certified and CalOSHA approved safety glasses for use in limited applications, only with direct supervisor approval.

PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

1723.1

(No. 69 May 2008)

Each employee will wear eye protection while traveling in an open-cabbed apparatus or when engaged in fire suppression activities. CAL FIRE provides approved wildland firefighting suppression goggles when traveling in an open truck. ANSI Z87.1 certified and CalOSHA approved safety glasses are the only eye protection devices that can be used in lieu of the goggles, in an open-cabbed apparatus and only with supervisor's permission.

Only CAL FIRE approved goggles shall be worn during active fire suppression operations. Supervisors have the authority to permit the use of ANSI Z87.1 certified and CalOSHA approved safety glasses in lieu of goggles in those fire line situations where continued use of goggles constitutes a greater safety hazard. Employees are required to wear appropriate eye protection anytime there is a risk of receiving eye injuries.

CAL FIRE will supply each employee with either safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield depending on the job to be performed. Examples of jobs requiring eye protection include, but are not limited to: using a wood chipper, working in heavy brush, using a chain saw, working under a vehicle, maintaining a wet cell battery, working with compressed air, sawing through a ceiling, or any other job involving a danger of flying or falling particles. Appropriate eye protection is also required whenever there is potential infectious disease exposure and/or the cleaning of medical supplies that have been contaminated with potential infectious material and/or the cleaning solutions are known to be toxic. Goggles or safety glasses utilized in these environments must be of the "non-vented" type.

Employees must wear suitable eye protection, such as safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield around grinders, wire wheels, drills, or other devices that can throw off flying objects or particles.

Employees must wear a properly tinted mask or goggles, when performing work with metal or helping with welding or cutting.

EYE AND FACE PROTECTION STANDARDS

1723.2

(No. 69 May 2008)

Protective equipment must meet the minimum requirements for design, construction and use as required by CCR, Title 8, Sections 3382 and 3404. Voluntary use of non-issued eye protection must first be approved by the department, be ANSI Z87.1 certified and can only be worn with the supervisor's permission. Only CAL FIRE approved wildland firefighting goggles can be used during active fire suppression. Safety glasses that are worn voluntarily shall be in accordance with the American National Standard Institute (ANSI), Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, Z87.1-1989. In addition to meeting ANSI and the Cal/OSHA regulations, the eye protection shall also have side shield protection. The use of vented side shields for medical response is prohibited.

HARD CONTACT LENS PROHIBITION

1723.3

(No. 62 February 2007)

Hard contact lenses may present an additional hazard to employees exposed to airborne particles, fumes, chemicals, and injurious light rays. Also, because hard contact lenses do not form to the cornea as do soft contact lenses, the potential loss of a lens may impair the employee's vision and safety.

Employees will not wear hard contact lenses while engaged in:

- Fire suppression and mop-up activities.
- Work where exposure to dust is expected or likely.
- Work where exposure to chemicals is expected or likely.
- Work where exposure to injurious light rays such as flashes from welding is expected or likely.
- While wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

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